CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST December 1977 Number 20

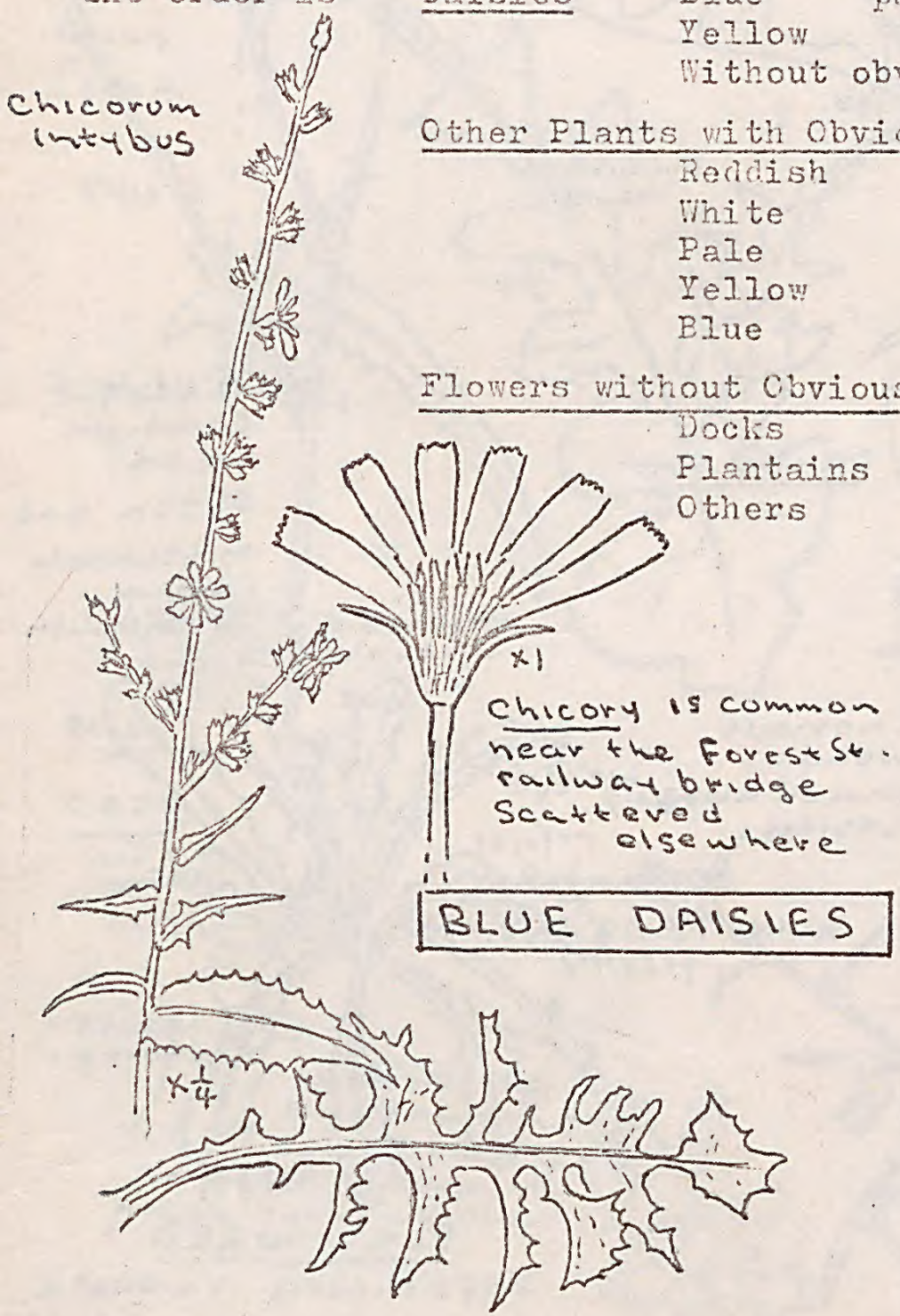
GARDEN AND LAWN WEEDS

Relax this summer, and leave your weeds alone. Instead of committing weedicide, sell your motor mower and let your lawn and nature strip grow. Castlemaine will be the better in the absence of the din and fumes from your weekend mowing, and you will be able to view nature in comfort and at home.

The weeds seen over 12 months in Castlemaine lawns, gardens and nature strips are described in this issue. Lack of space has prevented including grasses, clovers and shrubby plants.

The order is

Daisies	Blue page 1	Page 1
	Yellow 2, 3	2,3
	Without obvious petals	4
Other Plants with Obvious Petals		
	Reddish	Page 4,5
	White	6
	Pale	7
	Yellow	8
	Blue	9
Flowers without Obvious Petals		
	Docks	Page 9,10
	Plantains	12
	Others	11



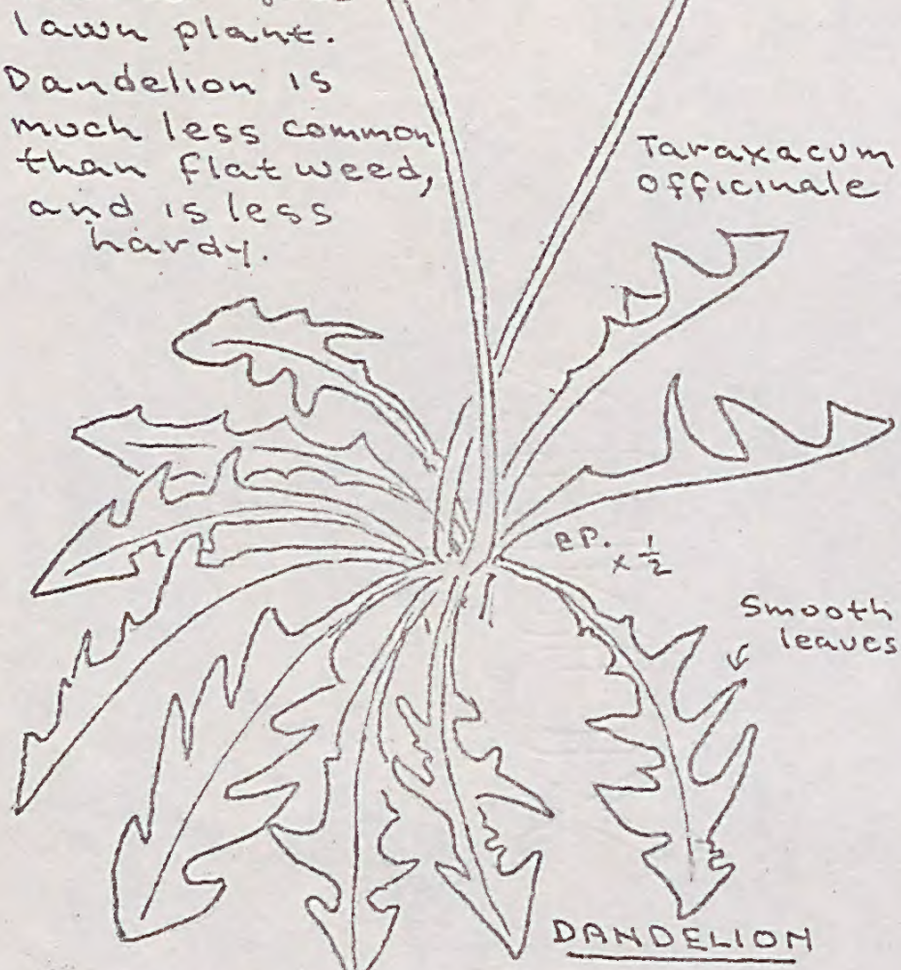
YELLOW DAISIES

Note fringe of leaves

Another good lawn plant.

Dandelion is much less common than Flat weed, and is less hardy.

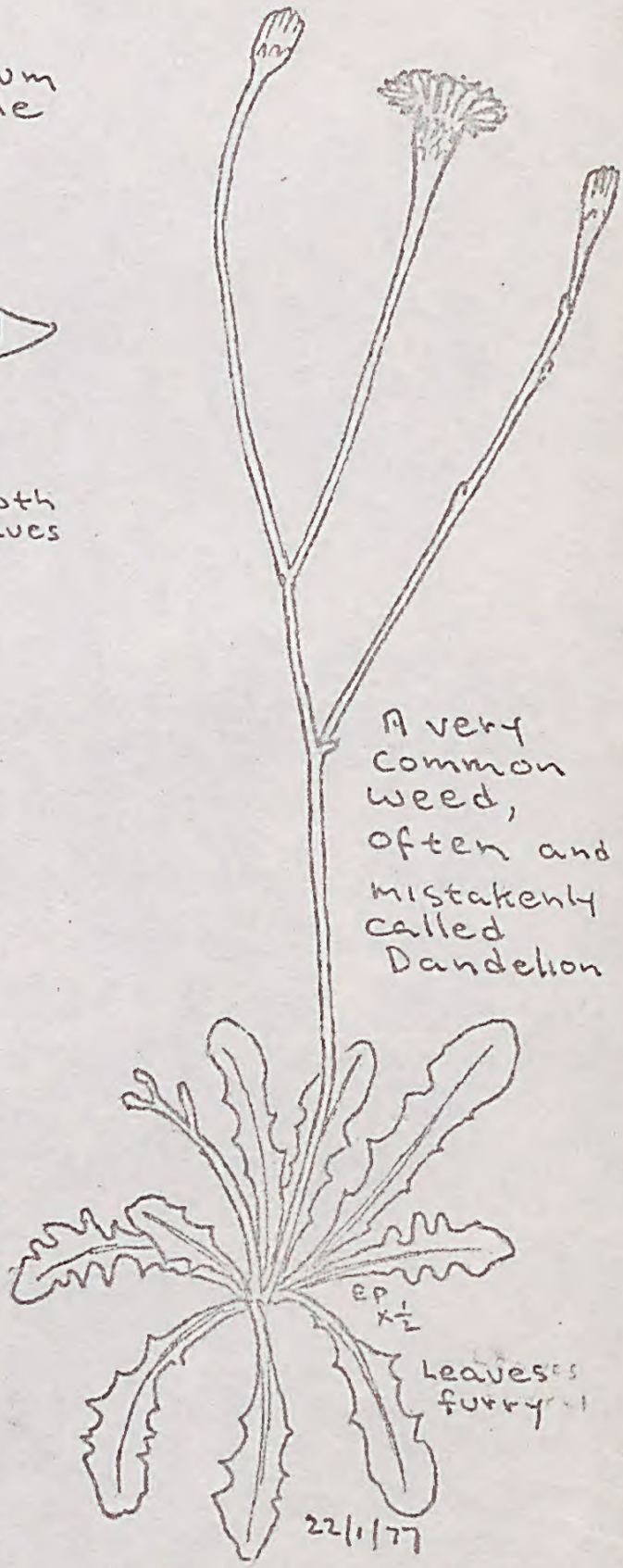
Taraxacum officinale



DANDELION

Flat weed is an excellent lawn plant. Seldom needs mowing.

A very common weed, often and mistakenly called Dandelion



22/1/77

FLAT WEED !

Hypochoeris radicata

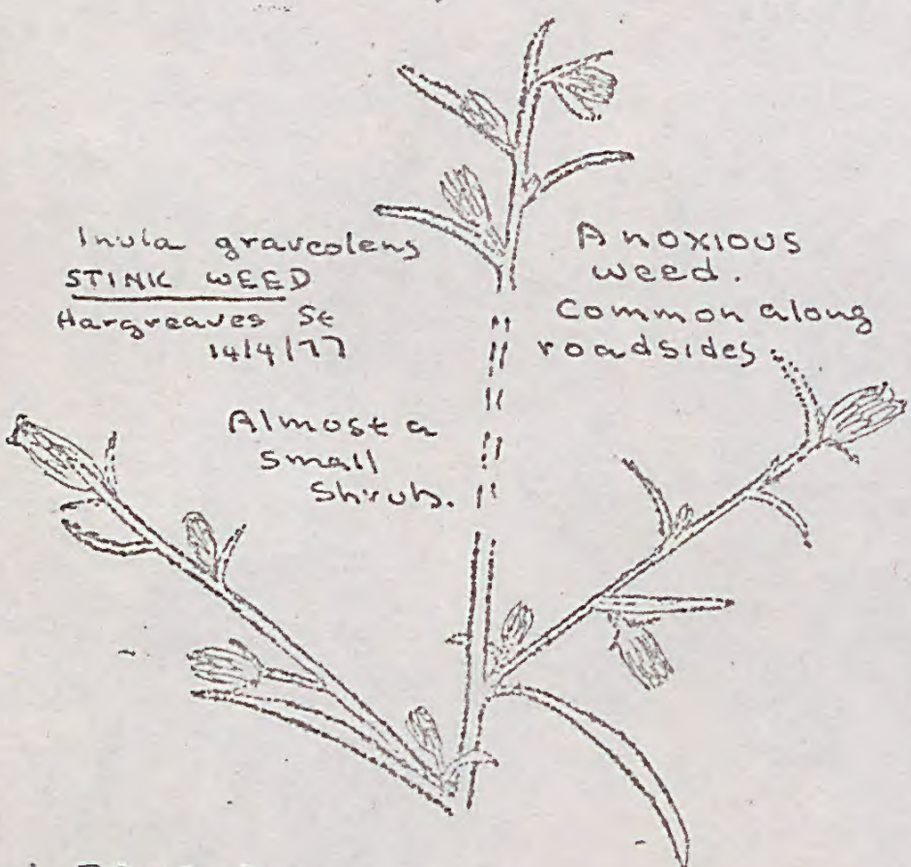
Inula graveolens

STINK WEED

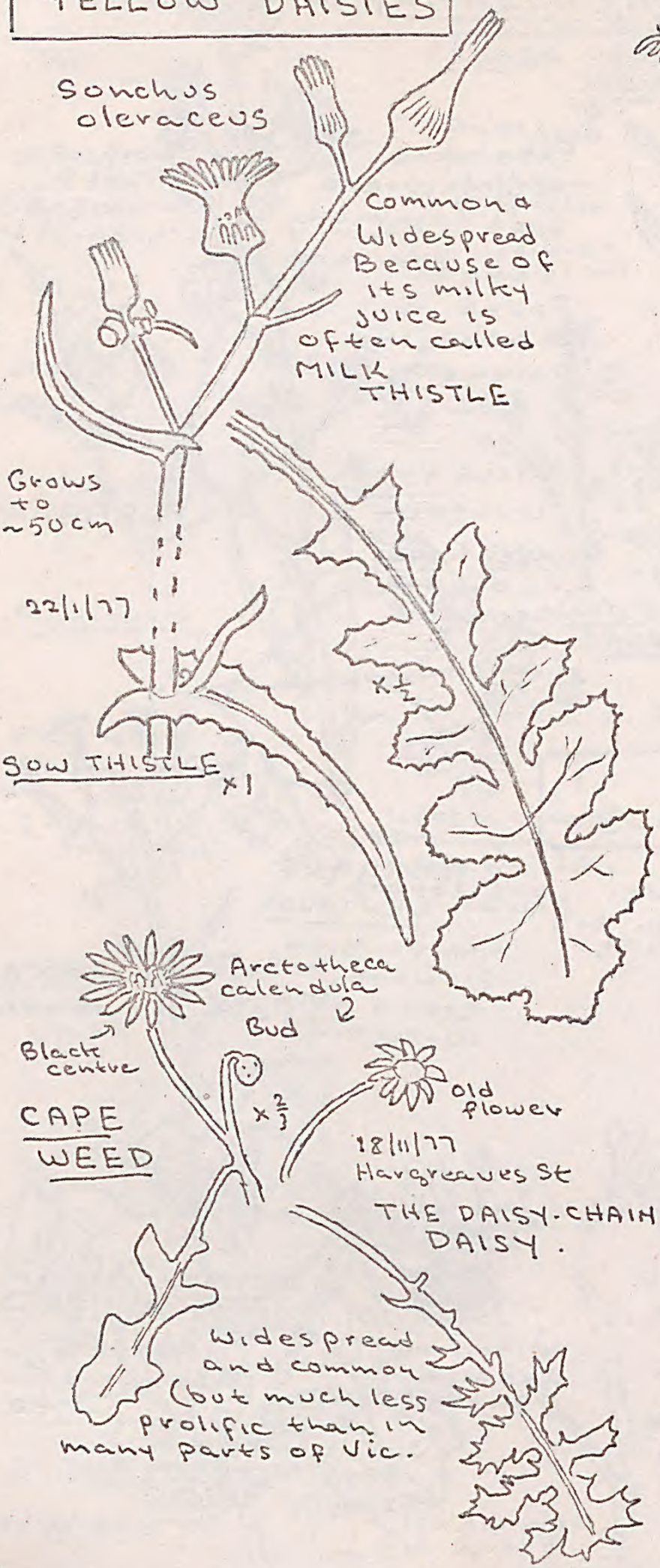
Hargreaves St 14/4/77

A noxious weed. Common along roadsides.

Almost a small Shrub.



YELLOW DAISIES



DAISIES WITHOUT OBVIOUS PETALS

ASTER-WEED

to 46-50cm

Not common

x1

Aster subulatus

7/2/77

(Prefers moister conditions e.g common along creek)

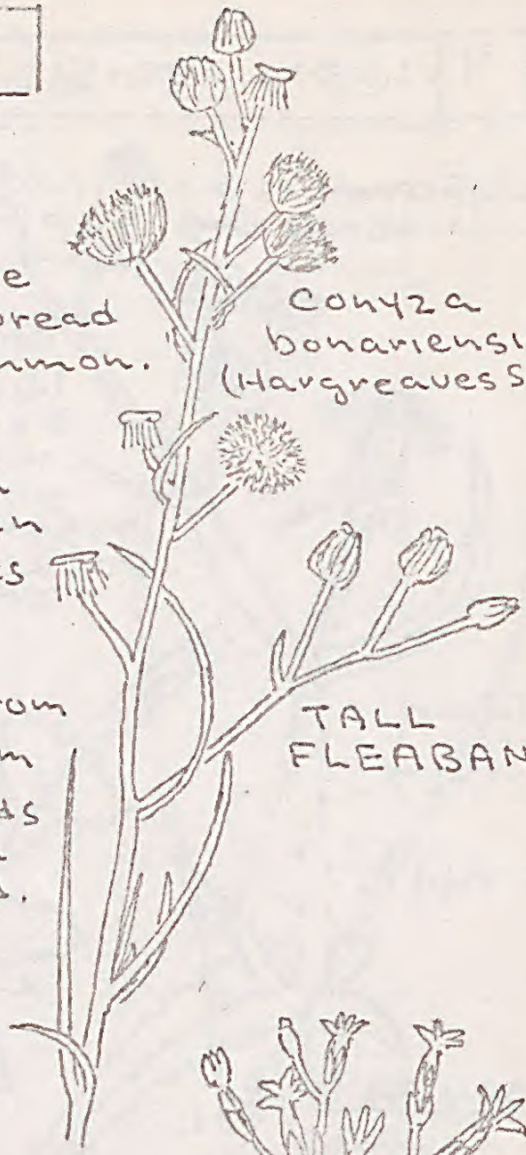
Fleabane is widespread and common.

Is often found in cracks in pavements etc

Conyza bonariensis (Hargreaves St)

Grows from 40-50cm

Flower heads are often crowded.



TALL FLEABANE

FLOWERS WITH ~RED PETALS

CRANES BILL

A native geranium. Not common but scattered e.g Kennedy St

x1

x10

Flower stalk with retrorsely adpressed hairs

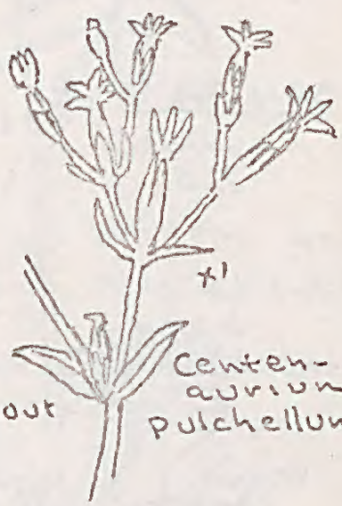
Geranium retrorsum

17/3/77

Parker St.

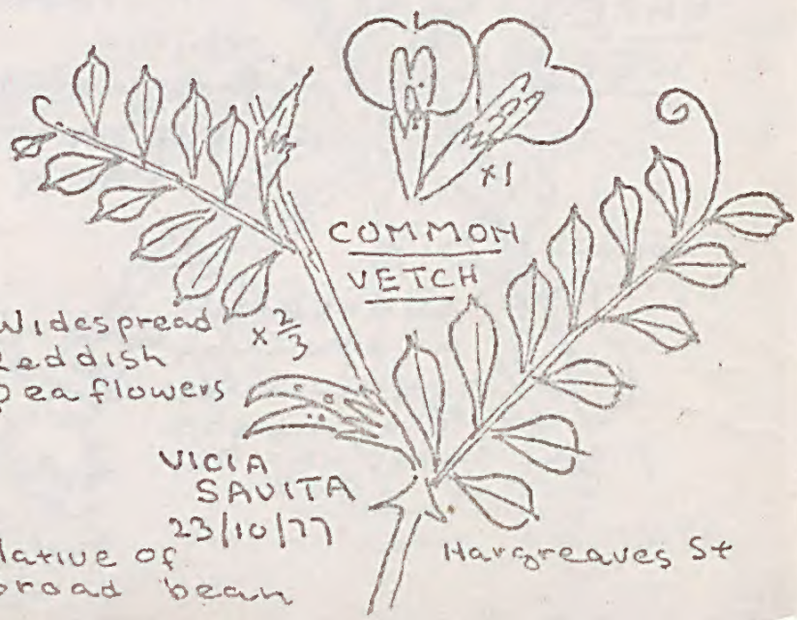
AUSTRAL CENTAURY

has pinkish flowers, grows to about 10-20 cm.



x1

Centen-aurium pulchellum



x1

COMMON VETCH

Widespread Reddish pea flowers

x 2/3

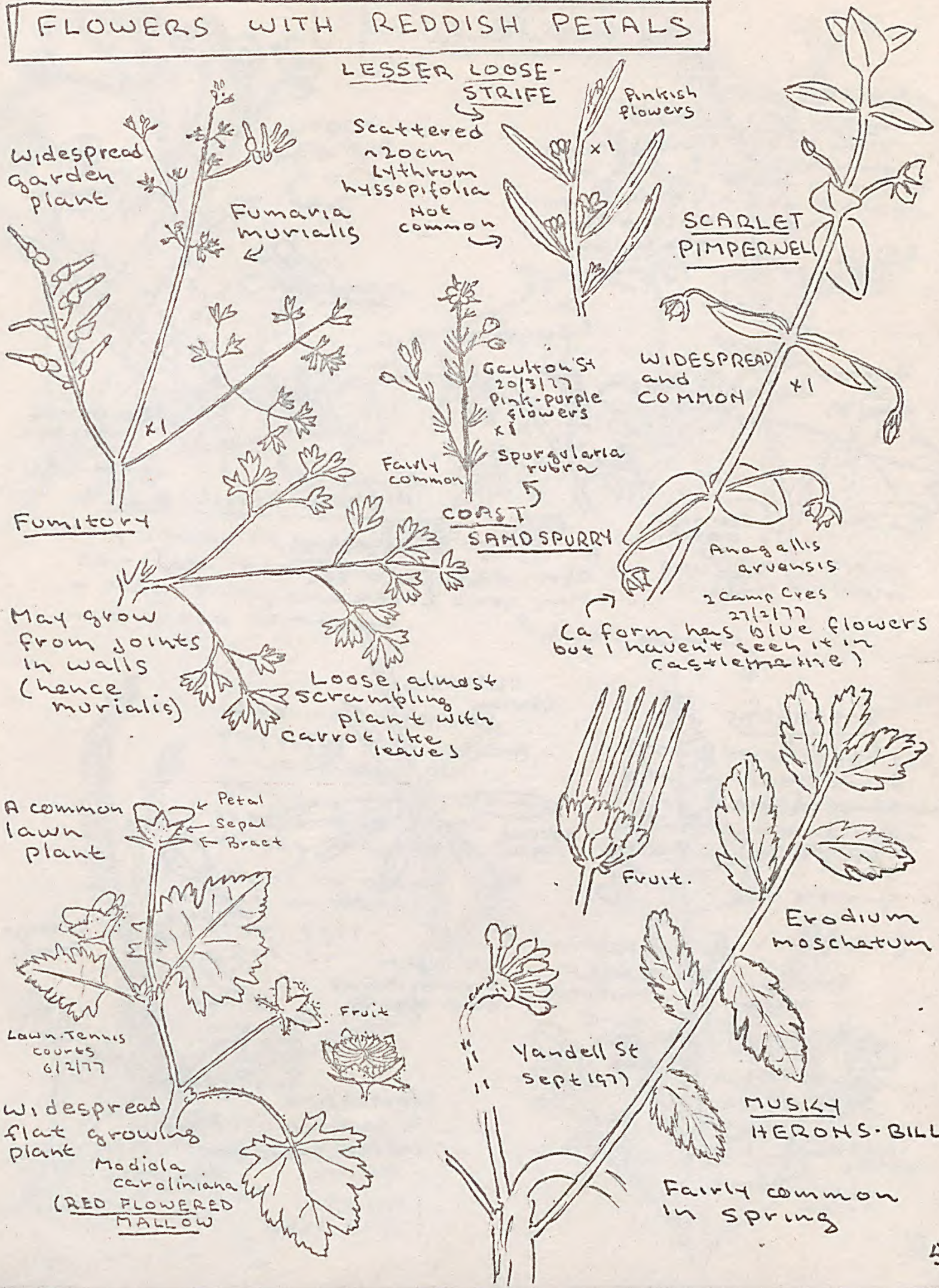
VICIA SAVITA

23/10/77

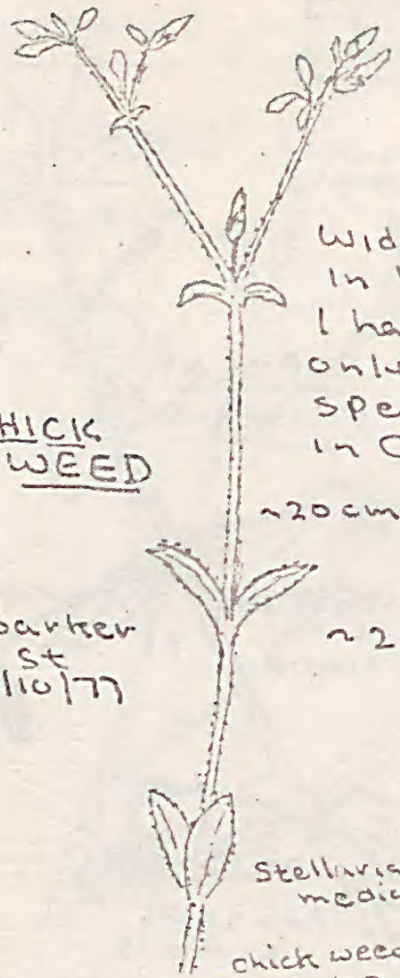
Relative of Broad bean

Hargreaves St

FLOWERS WITH REDDISH PETALS



WHITE FLOWERS



CHICK WEED

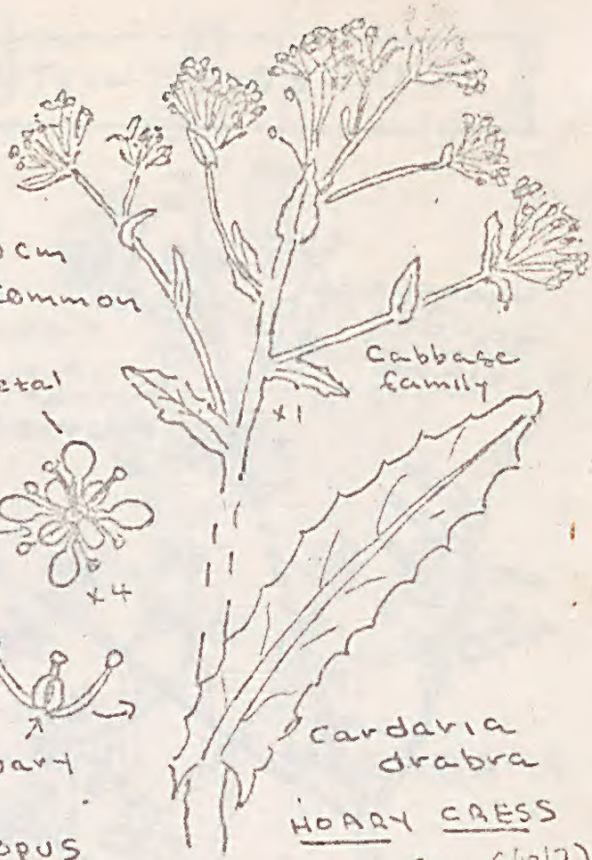
Widespread in Vic. but I have found only a few specimens in C'maine

~20 cm

Barker St 6/10/77

Stellaria media

chick weed 6/10/77



~20 cm Not common

Petal

Sepal

x4

x1

Cabbage family

Cardaria drabra

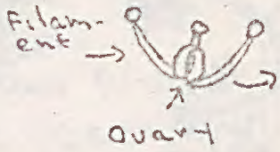
HOARY CRESS

Forest St 6/10/77

Scattered

~20cm

x1



Filament

Ovary

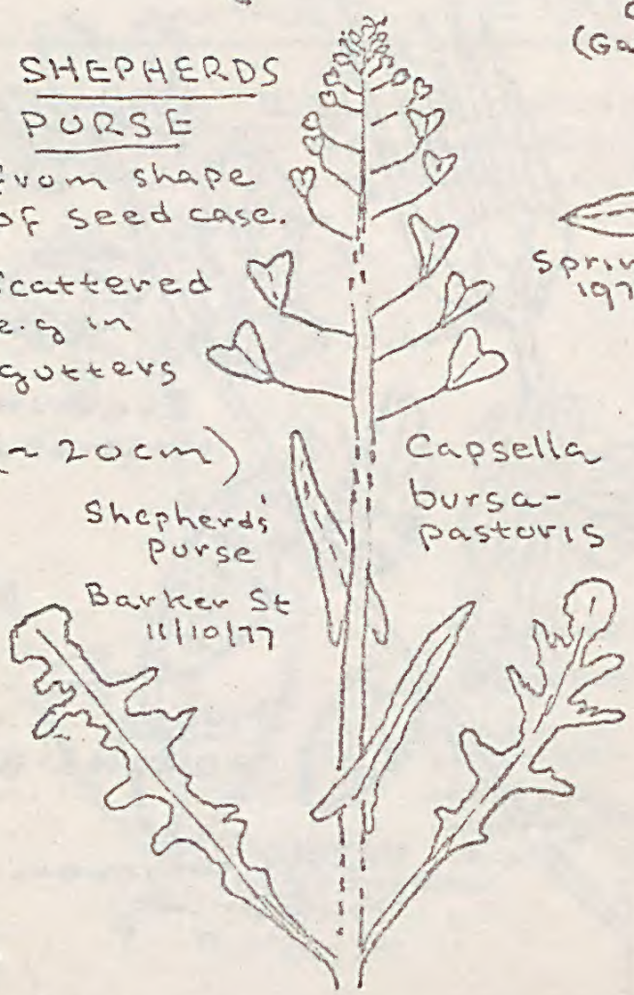
Coronopus didymus

x6 Fruit

LESSER SWINECRESS

Often a matplant but may grow erect

Cabbage family



SHEPHERDS PURSE

from shape of seed case.

Scattered e.g in gutters

(~20cm)

Shepherds Purse

Barker St 11/10/77

Capsella bursa-pastoris

CLEAVERS (Galium aparine)

Spring 1976

x1

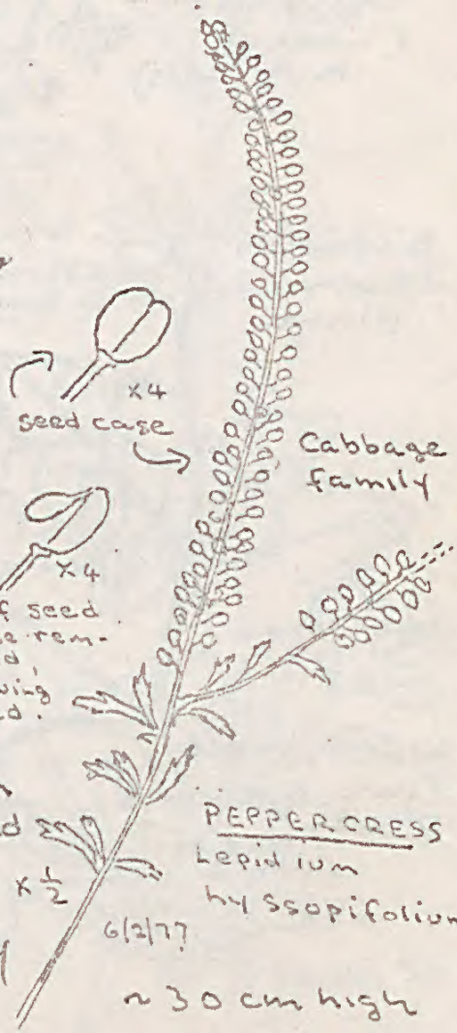
A climber twists through other plants

x4

seed case

x4

Half seed case removed, showing seed



Cabbage family

A common widespread plant.

Almost Shrubby

PEPPERCRESS

Lepidium hyssopifolium

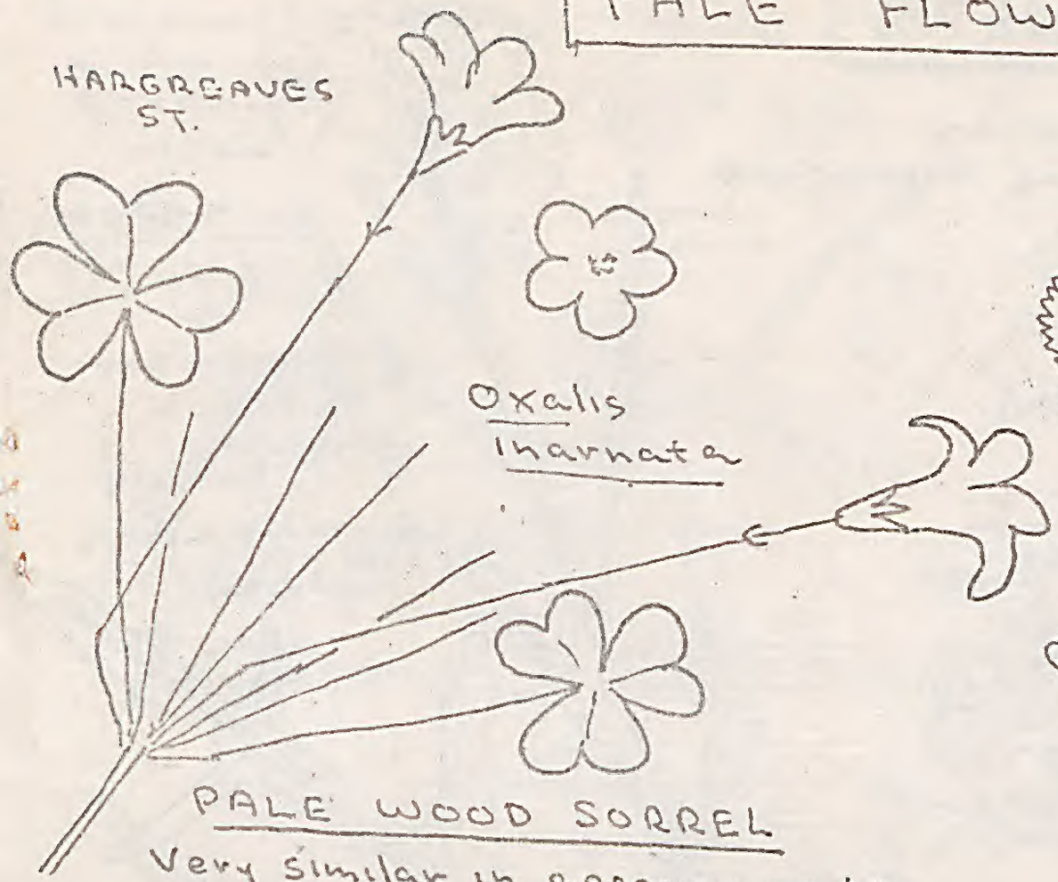
x ½

6/2/77

~30 cm high

PALE FLOWERS

HARGREAVES ST.



Oxalis Inarnata

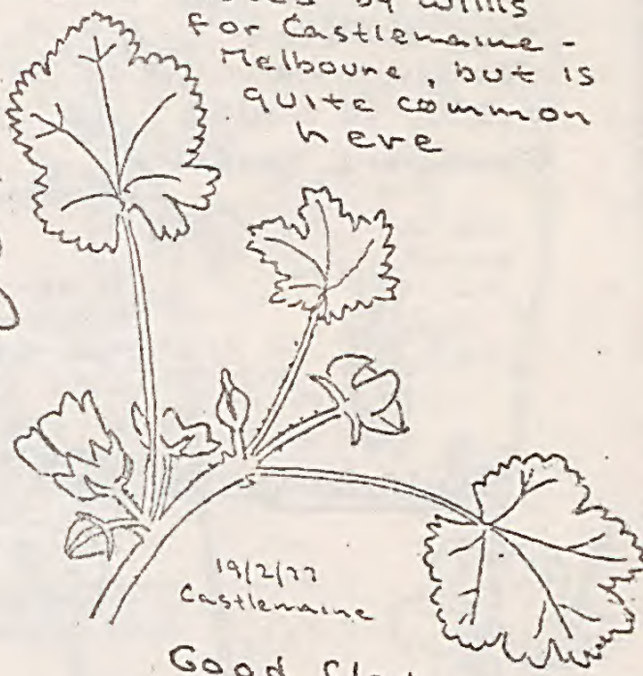
PALE WOOD SORREL

Very similar in appearance to sour-sob, but flowers are a pale pink, and it is much less common.

Malva neglecta

DWARF MALLOW

Is not listed by Willis for Castlemaine - Melboune, but is quite common here

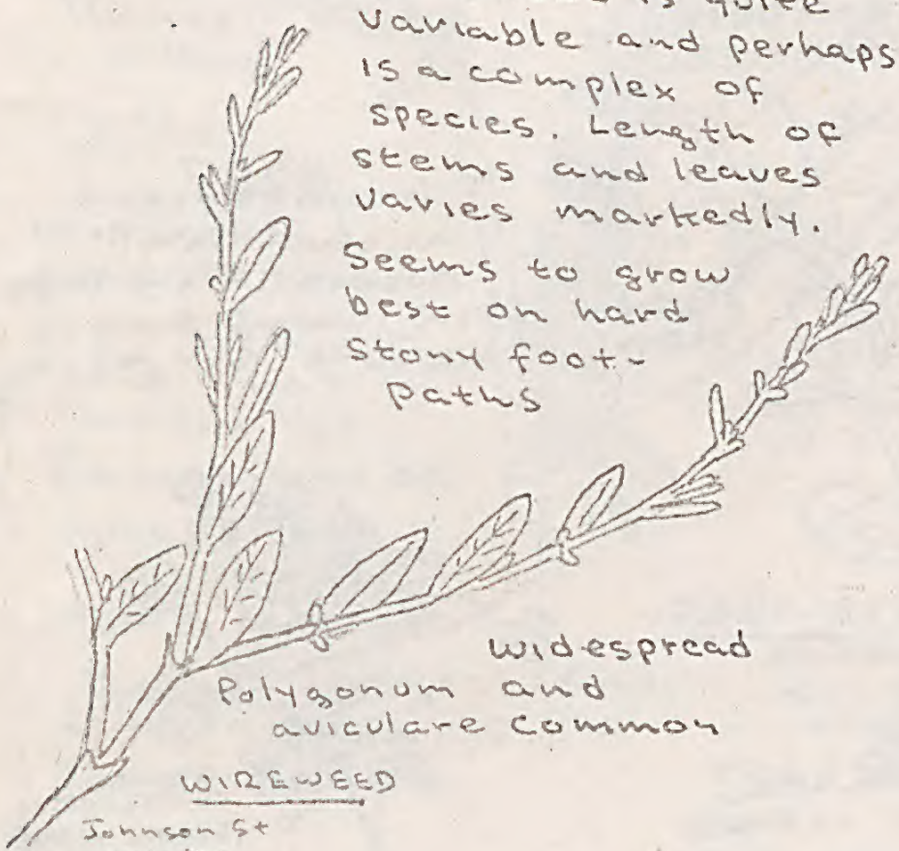


19/2/77 Castlemaine

Good flat growing plant for a lawn

Wireweed is quite variable and perhaps is a complex of species. Length of stems and leaves varies markedly.

Seems to grow best on hard stony foot-paths



Widespread Polygonum and aviculare common

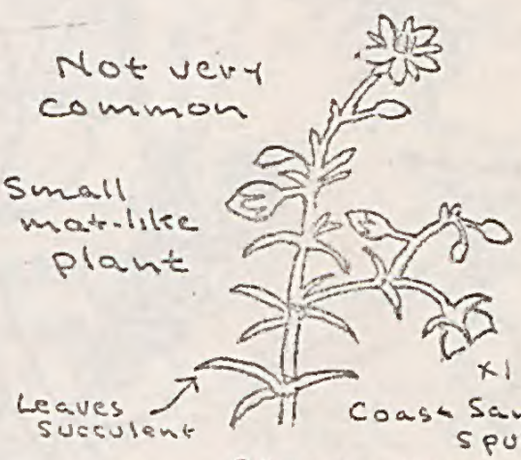
WIREWEED

Johnson St 27/2/77

Coast sand spurrey grows best in salty areas - sometimes in Castlemaine with creeping saltbush

Not very common

Small mat-like plant



Coast Sand-spurrey

SPERGULARIA MEDIA

YELLOW FLOWERS

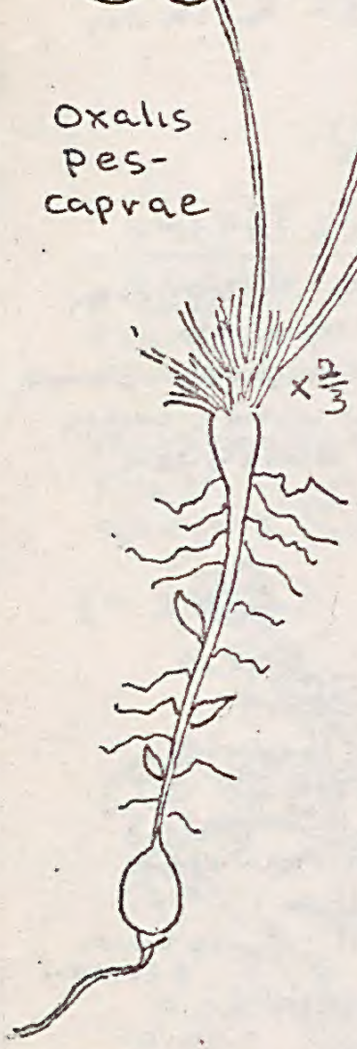
The clover like leaves and yellow flowers are distinctive

The bulblets remain when the plant is pulled from the garden

A very common garden weed

SOURSOB

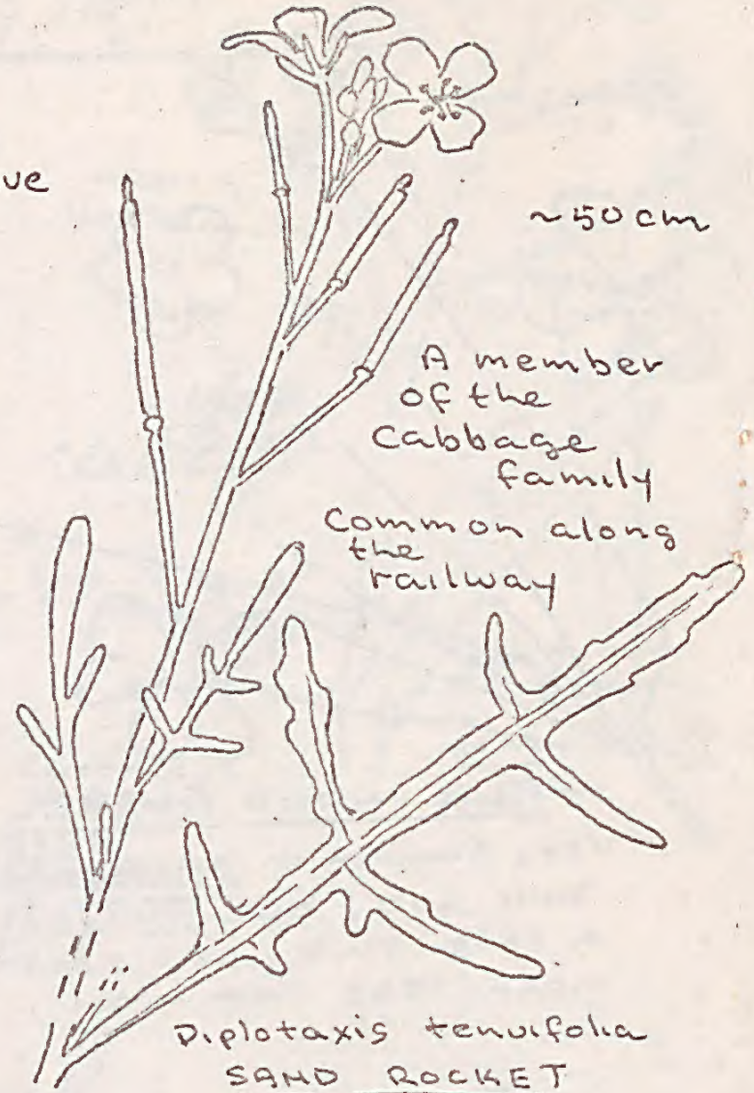
Oxalis pes-caprae



~50 cm

A member of the Cabbage family

Common along the railway



Diplotaxis tenuifolia

SAND ROCKET

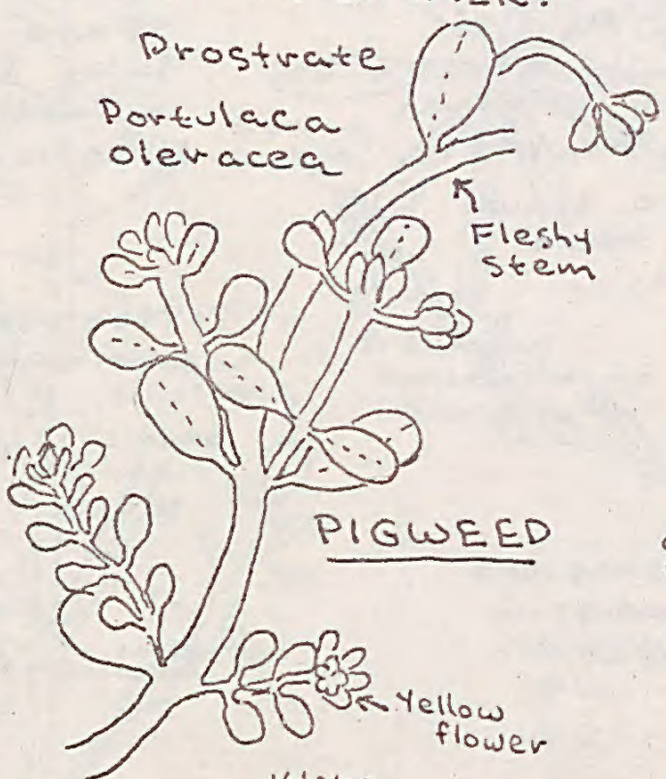
20/3/77.

Cr Forrest & Kennedy St

PIGWEED is a COMMON GARDEN WEED IN SUMMER.

Prostrate

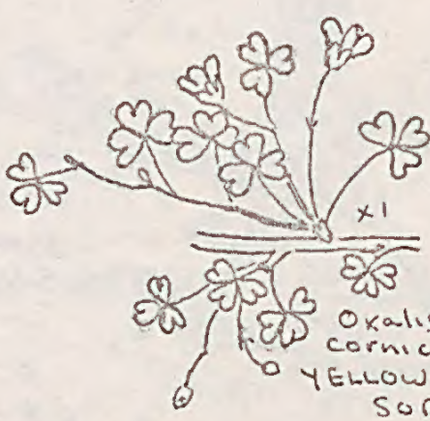
Portulaca oleracea



PIGWEED

16/3/77

A widespread native oxalis. Occurs in the bush, in lawns and nature strips



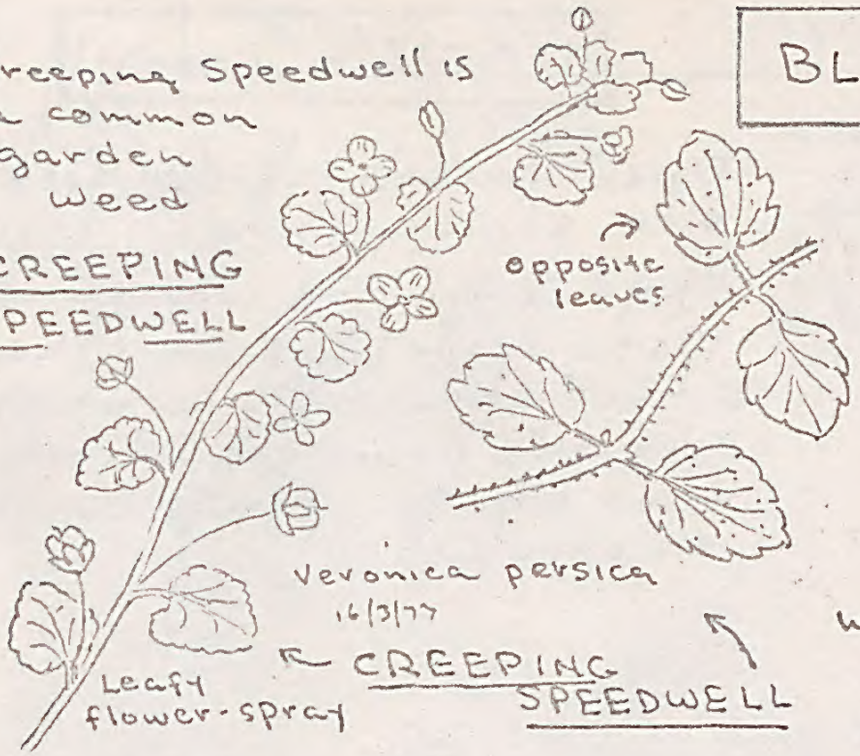
Oxalis corniculata

YELLOW WOOD SORRELL

BLUE FLOWERS

Creeping Speedwell is a common garden weed

CREEPING SPEEDWELL



TUFTED BLUEBELL

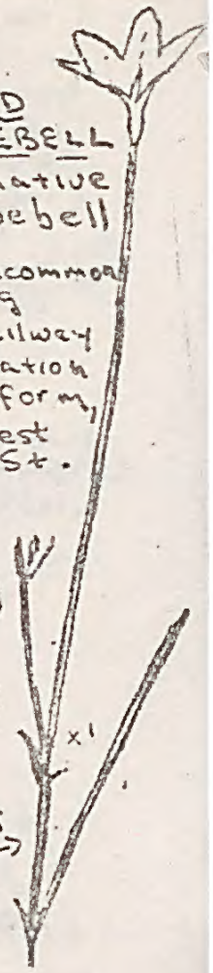
A native Bluebell

Uncommon e.g. Railway station platform, Forest St.

Leaves in opposite pairs

WILD SAGE upper leaves may be stalkless

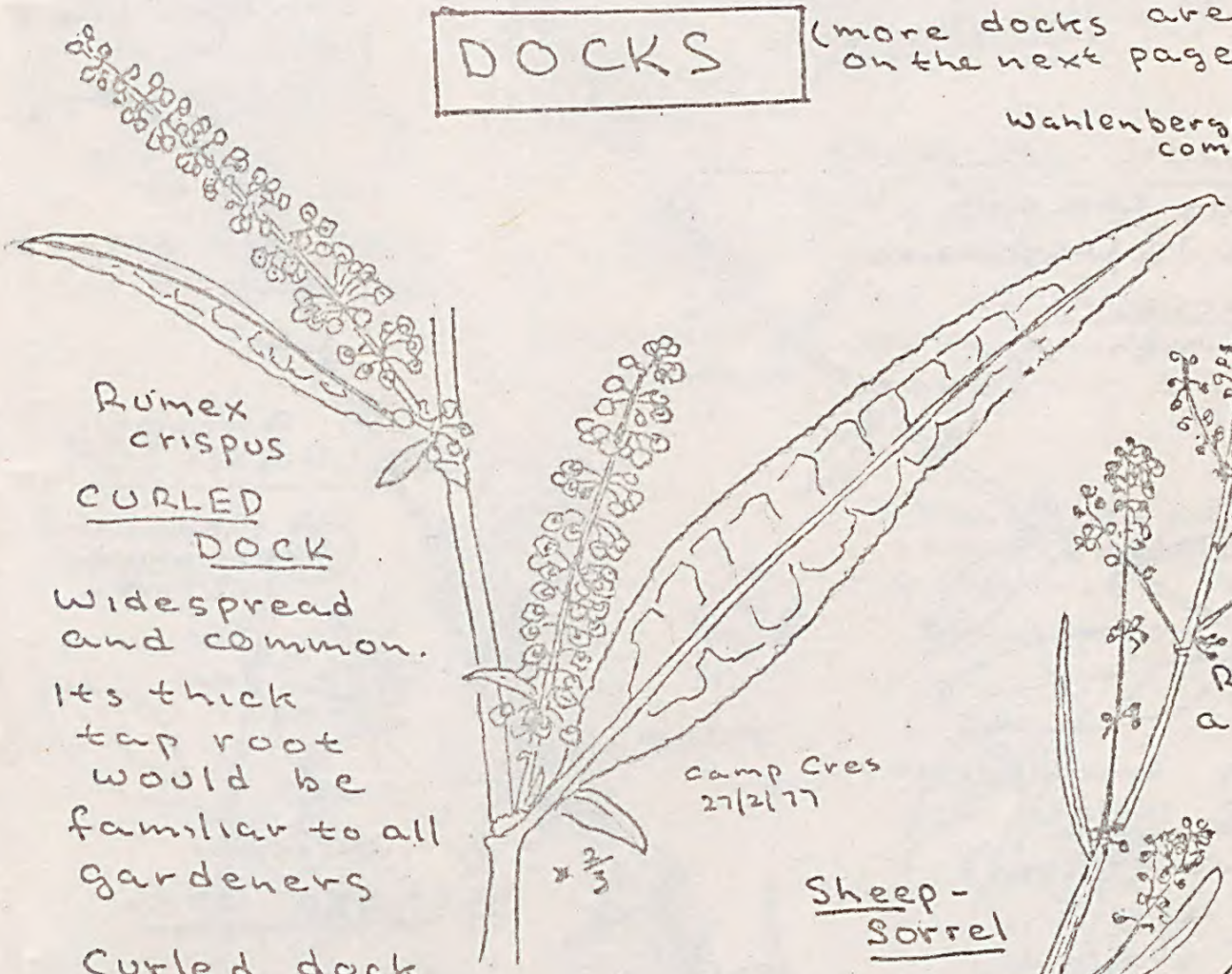
(SALVIA VERBENACA)



Wahlenbergia communis →

DOCKS

(more docks are on the next page)



Rumex crispus

CURLED DOCK

Widespread and common.

Its thick tap root would be familiar to all gardeners

Curled dock is the largest and most robust of the local docks

Sheep-Sorrel

Widespread and fairly common

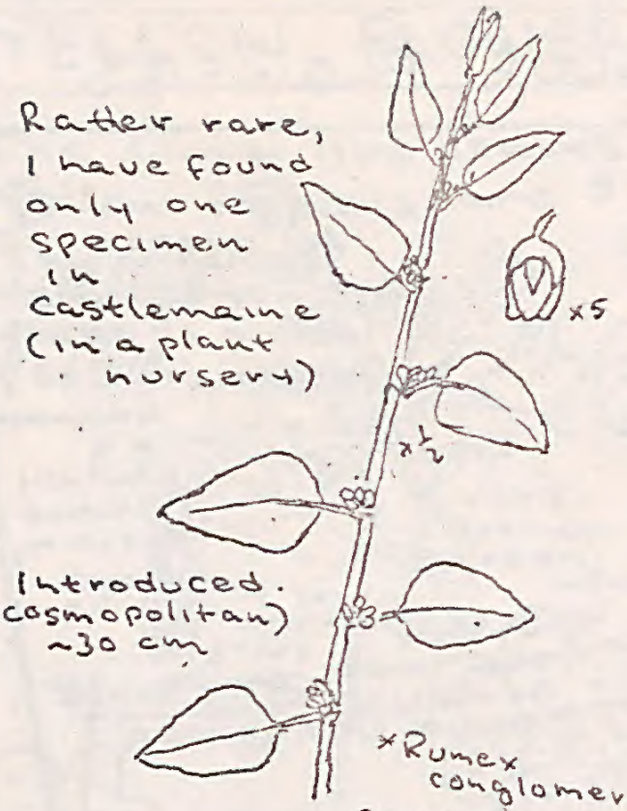
The reddish flower sprays are quite noticable

Sorrel is the smallest of local docks

DOCKS (cont.)

Three rather similar docks are shown here.

The flowers are worthy of close examination. The 3 inner petals form valves over the fruit, and may have swollen lumps (called tubercles)

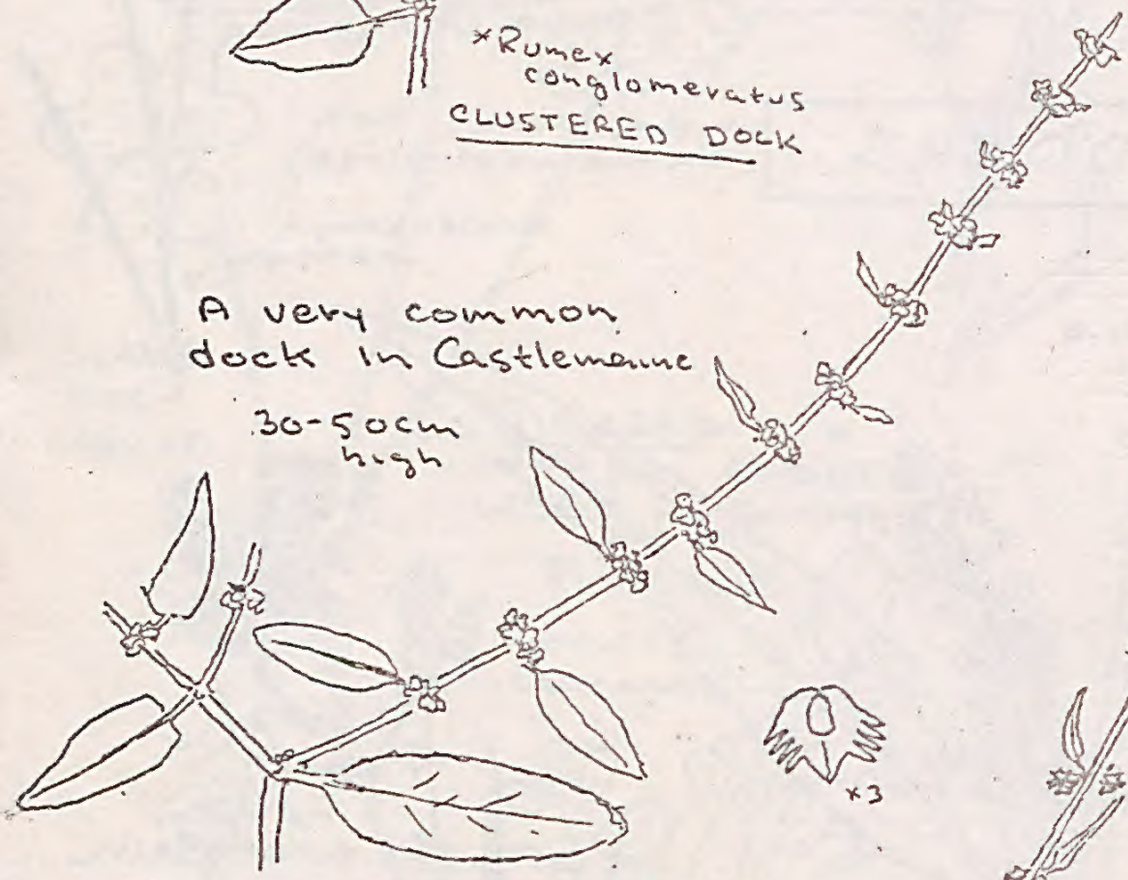


Rather rare, I have found only one specimen in Castlemaine (in a plant nursery)

Introduced. (cosmopolitan) ~30 cm

*Rumex conglomeratus

CLUSTERED DOCK



A very common dock in Castlemaine

30-50cm high

Rumex pulcher

FIDDLE DOCK

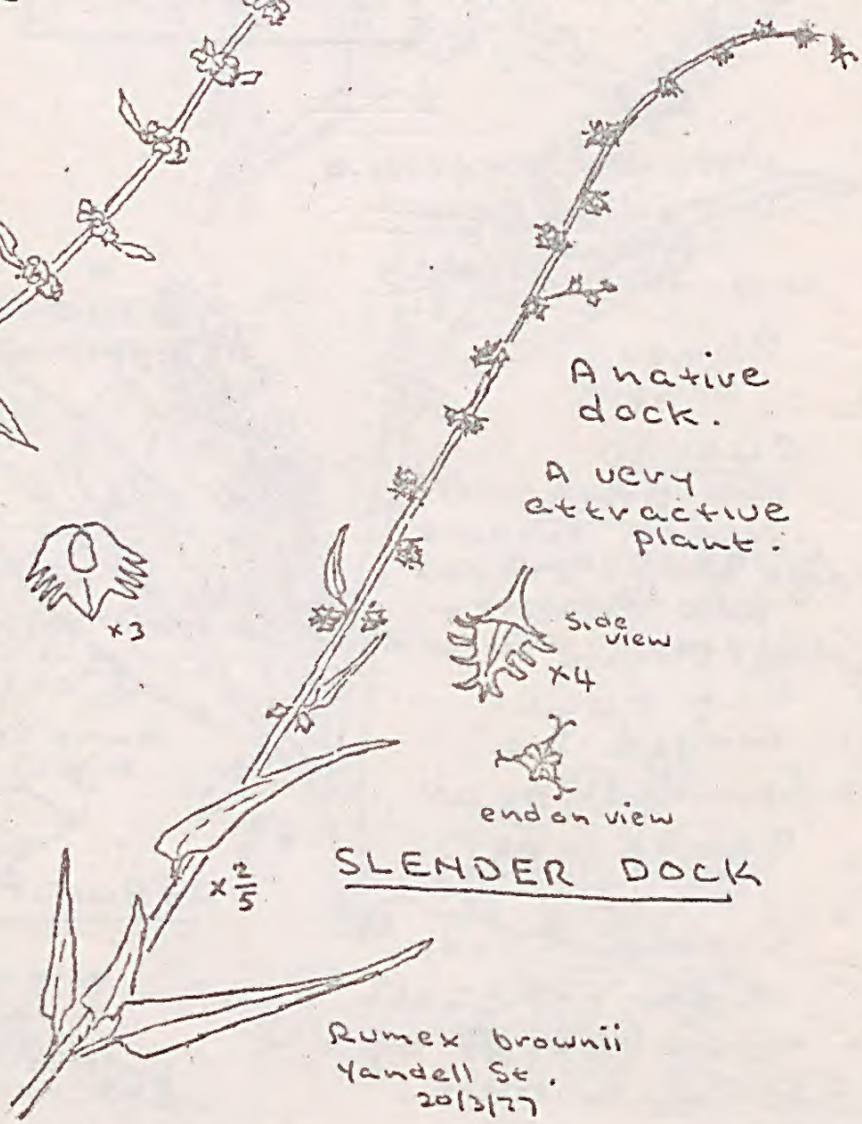
The lower (basal) leaves are fiddle shaped, hence the common name

(From Europe + Asia)

Scattered - less common than fiddle dock

A native dock.

A very attractive plant.

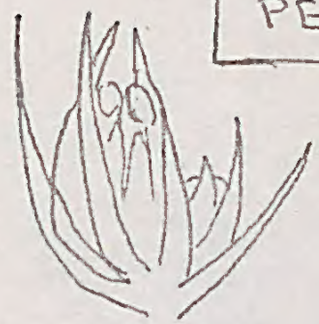


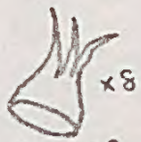
SLENDER DOCK

Rumex brownii
Yandell St.
20/3/77

PETALS NOT OBVIOUS

See also page 6





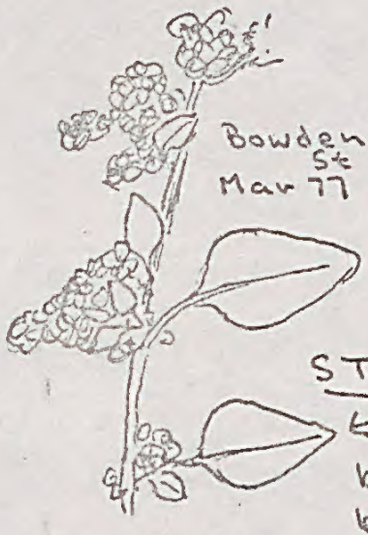
Cap of fruit

Bowden St March 77

Amaranthus retroflexus

RED-ROOT AMARANTH

Leaves and stems can be quite red

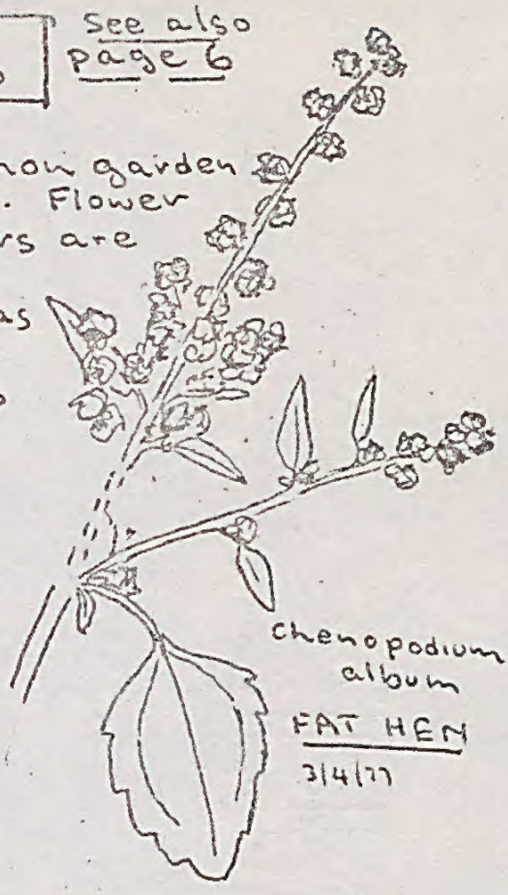


Bowden St Mar 77

Chenopodium vulvaria

STINKING GOOSEFOOT

Similar to Fat Hen, but easily distinguished by its revolting smell of rotten fish. A most obnoxious smell



A common garden weed. Flower clusters are mealy-white, as are the leaves

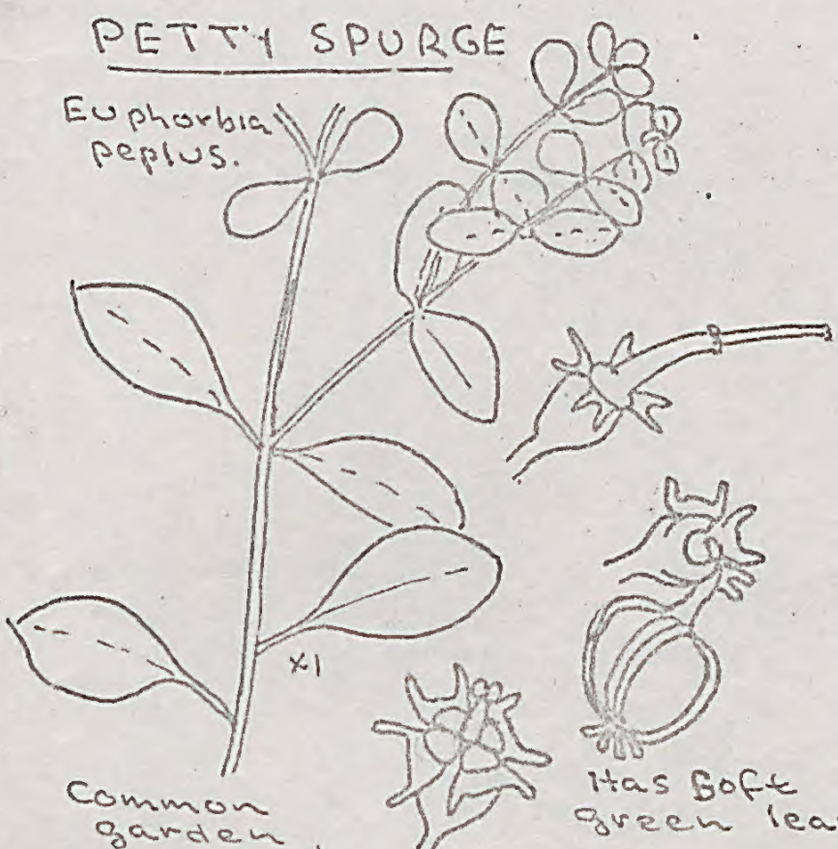
Chenopodium album

FAT HEN

3/4/77

PETTY SPURGE

Euphorbia peplus.



Common garden weed.

Has soft green leaves

I have seen only a few samples of clammy Goosefoot. May be prostrate

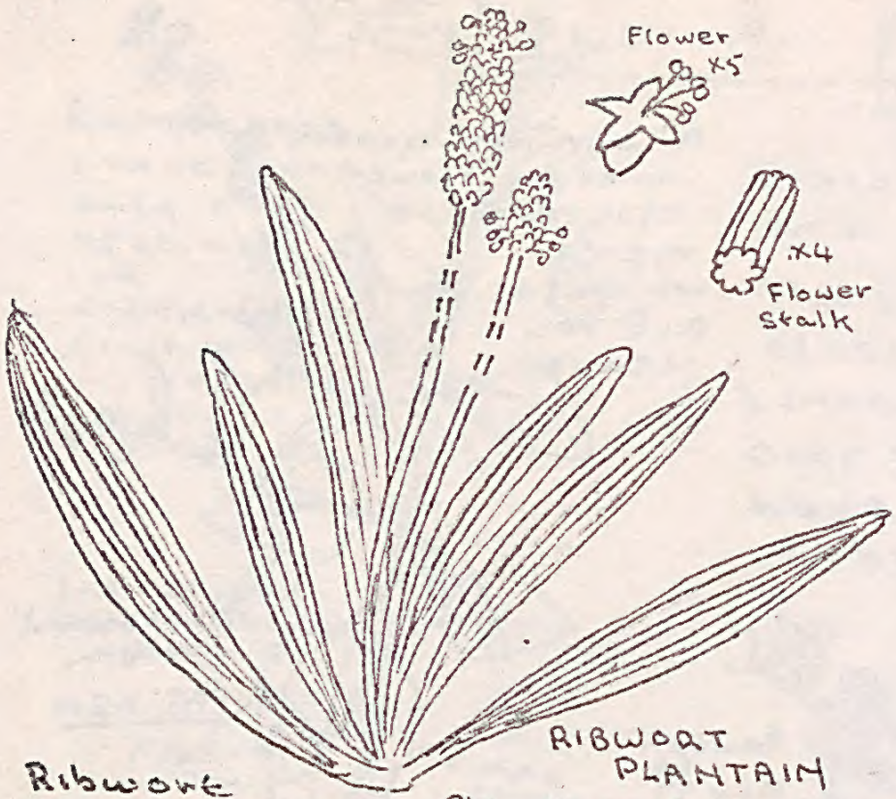
21/3/77

Chenopodium pumilio

CLAMMY GOOSEFOOT

Flower opened to show seed

PLANTAINS

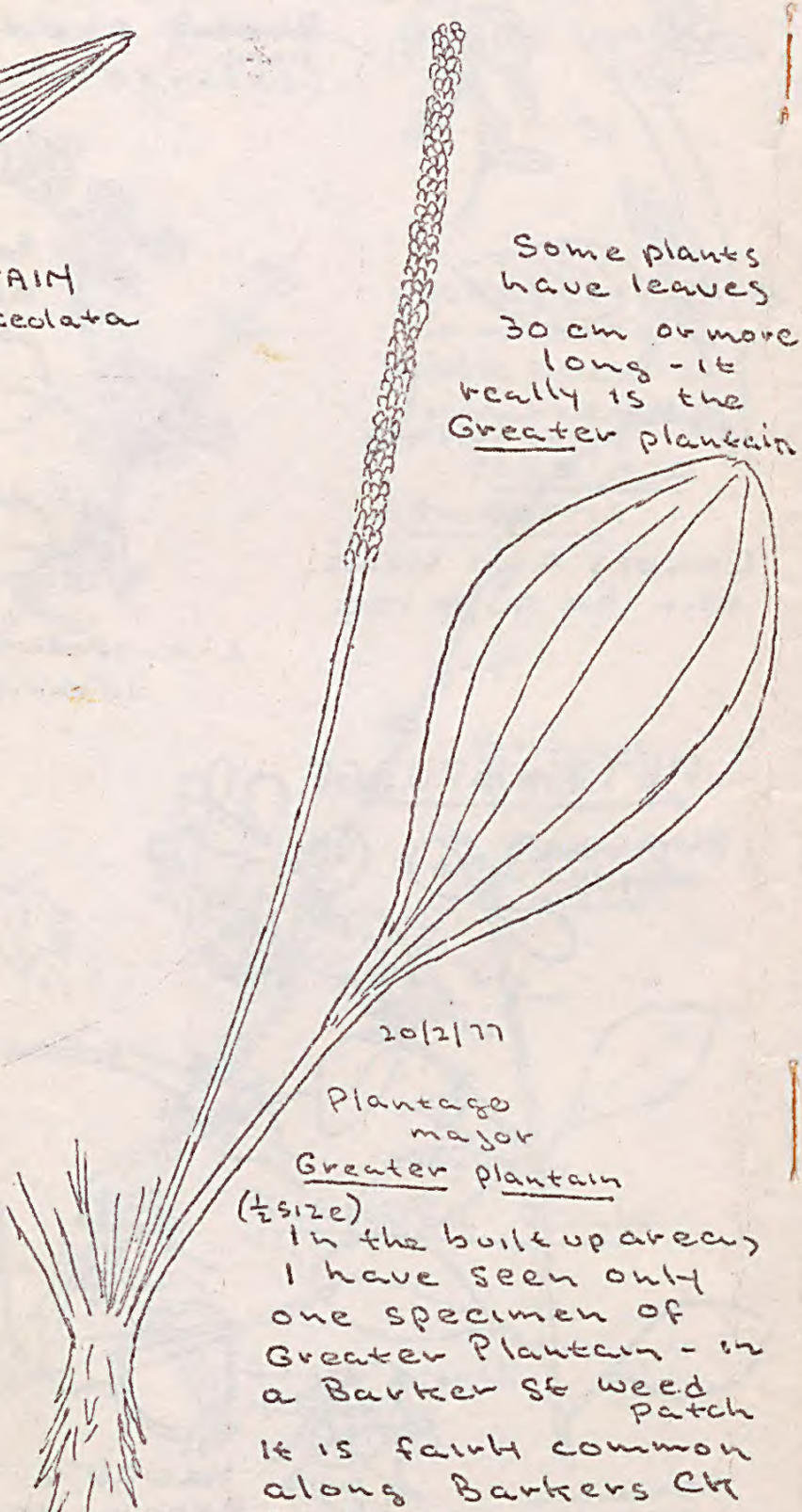


RIBWOAT
PLANTAIN
Plantago lanceolata

Ribwort Plantain would be perhaps the most common weed in Castlemaine, in all gardens and lawns. It grows flat and is anthus excellent lawn plant

Variable Plantain is a native plantain found occasionally in the bush - I have not seen it in the town.

Some plants have leaves 30 cm or more long - it really is the Greater plantain



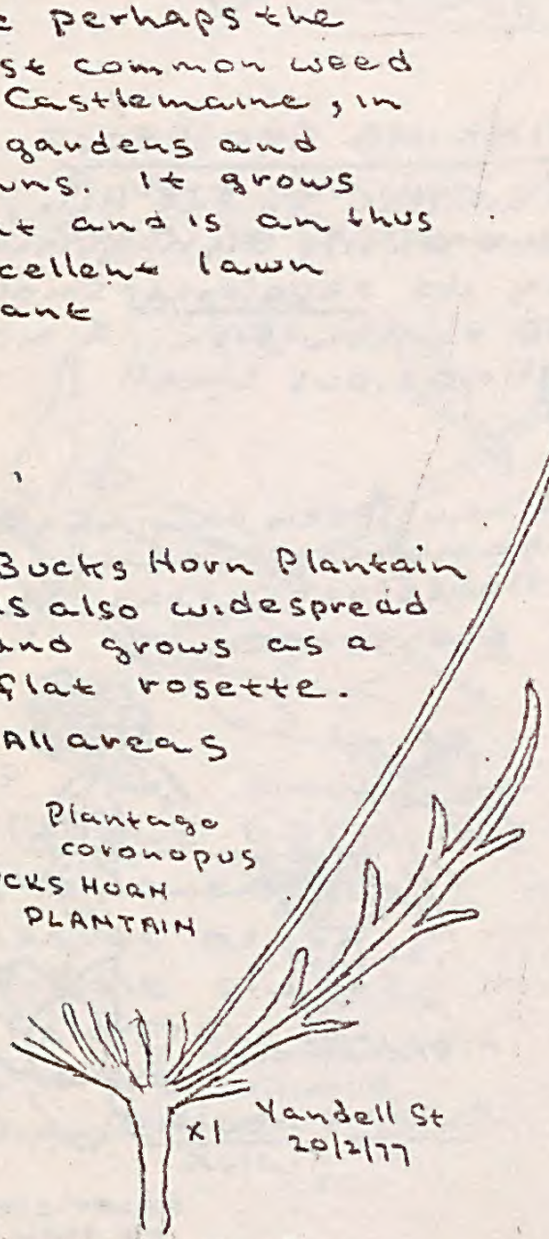
20/2/77

Plantago major
Greater plantain
(½ size)

In the built up areas I have seen only one specimen of Greater Plantain - in a Barker St weed patch
It is fairly common along Barkers Ck however

Bucks Horn Plantain is also widespread and grows as a flat rosette.

All areas



Plantago coronopus
BUCKS HORN PLANTAIN

x1 Yandell St 20/2/77

Compiled by E Perkins